

REMARKS

Claims 3, 14-16, and 18 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-27 remain pending in this application.

Claims 14-16 and 18 have objected to because of a number of informalities. Applicants believe that the changes to the claims overcome the outstanding objections. Applicants thank the Examiner for bringing the errors to applicants' attention.

Claims 1-9, 14, 17, and 20-21 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,817,358 to Resnick. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection cannot be sustained.

The '358 patent to Resnick discloses a protective hood that has an adjustable visor. The visor may be moved from a distal position to a proximal position through use of a mechanism that includes a rod 60 in a guide member 70 that is secured at a first end 71 to visor 20. The rod 60 is secured to a filter 30 by a forward support leg 60a and a rearward support leg 60b.

The Examiner has taken the position that Resnick's Figures 5 and 11 and items 36, 60, 60a, 60b, 70, and 71 disclose applicants' claimed bayonet attachment system. The apparatus described in Figures 5 and 11 of Resnick, however, does not describe a bayonet attachment system. Applicants' definition of a bayonet attachment system is found on page 4, lines 16-20 and is reproduced below for ease of reference:

"bayonet attachment system" or "bayonet locking system" is a system configured for attaching two portions together, where the two portions include elements other than mainly threads such that the two portions are attached by inserting one portion at least partially within the other portion and rotating one portion relative to the other so that the two portions can be joined without multiple turns;

The cited parts shown in Resnick's Figures 5 and 11 are described by Resnick as being the following:

36	Filter
60	Rod
60a	Forward support leg
60b	Rearward support leg
70	Guide member
71	First end of the guide member

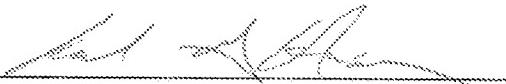
As is apparent, the Resnick parts 30, 60, 60a, 60b, 70, and 71 and the apparatus shown in Figures 5 and 11 are used to move the visor 20 forward and backward. At column 3, lines 58-62, Resnick indicates that the "[m]ovement of guide member 70 and hence of visor 20 from the retracted position of FIG. 4 to the expanded position of FIG. 3 is accomplished by sliding guide member 70 along the length of rod 60 in a right-to-left direction as drawn in said Figures." Not only does the structure shown in FIGs. 5 and 11 of Resnick fail to qualify as a bayonet attachment system, but the means described in Resnick for securing the filter cartridges to the mask body also is not a bayonet system. At column 5, lines 5-12, Resnick indicates that "filters 31 and 35 are secured to hood 10 in angled relation to the visor 20, threaded in an opposite relation relative to one another." The filters 31 and 35 are externally threaded to enable the filters to be secured to the hood 10. Resnick thus describes a threaded system for securing its filter cartridges to the respirator hood. Resnick does not describe a bayonet system but rather describes a system for adjusting the visor. As such, Resnick would not have anticipated applicant's invention under the terms of 35 USC § 102.

Applicants' invention also has been rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over the disclosure in the '358 patent to Resnick. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection also cannot be sustained. As indicated above, Resnick fails to teach or suggest a bayonet system for attaching filter cartridges to the hood. Resnick uses a system of threads for achieving engagement between the hood and the filter cartridges. As such, Resnick would not have made applicants' invention obvious to a person of ordinary skill.

In view of the above, applicants believe that this application is in condition to be allowed. Please reconsider the outstanding rejections in light of the comments provided above.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

By: 
Karl G. Hanson, Reg. No.: 32,900
Telephone No.: 651-736-7776

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833